

2018 Street and Alley Improvements

Frequently Asked Questions

The following information is intended to be a general overview of what to expect during construction of the 2018 Street and Alley Improvements project.

Q1. What blocks are in the project?

The project includes the following 8 individual blocks:

- 9th Avenue from 6th Street to 7th Street.
- 9th Street from 10th Avenue to 11th Avenue.
- 13th Street from Highway 61 (7th Avenue) to 8th Avenue.
- The Alley north of 2nd Avenue, from 4th Street to 5th Street.
- The Alley north of 3rd Avenue, from 3rd Street to 4th Street.
- The Alley north of 4th Avenue, from 5th Street to 6th Street.
- The Alley north of 7th Avenue, from 7th Street to 8th Street.
- The Alley north of 8th Avenue, from 7th Street to 8th Street.

Q2. What is being done?

PAVEMENT: All 8 blocks are receiving new blacktop pavement. The pavement will be supported by new gravel and sand.

CONCRETE CURB: Concrete curb is being installed on 9th Avenue, 9th Street, and 13th Street.

SIDEWALK: The existing sidewalks on 9th Avenue are being replaced, and a new concrete sidewalk is being added along the east side of 9th Street.

SANITARY SEWER: The existing sewer is being replaced on the entire block of 9th Avenue. On 13th Street, a small segment of sewer is being replaced where it crosses 13th Street at the alley.

WATER MAIN: The existing water main is being replaced on the entire block of 9th Avenue.

STORM SEWER: Storm sewer and drain tile are being installed on 9th Avenue, 9th Street, 13th Street, and in the Alley North of 8th Avenue.

Q3. When will construction start and how long will it last?

Construction is expected to begin in early June. Since there are 8 individual blocks in the project, not all blocks will start at the same time.

In general, work on a block will take about 3 weeks from start until the block has the new gravel in place. 13th Street and 9th Avenue will take a little longer because of the utility work. 13th Street is expected to take 4 weeks, and 9th Avenue about 6 weeks.

Once a block has the new gravel, it should be paved within about another 4 weeks.

Several factors can influence construction duration - but the single most important factor is weather. A rainy, wet season will make construction more difficult to perform, leading to non-working days and increasing the time needed to complete the project.

Q4. What are the working hours? Will they be working on weekends?

The approved working hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The contractor may work Saturdays, if they request permission from the city. Working on Saturday is usually only if they are making up for rain days during the week or they are trying to meet a deadline.

Work on Sundays or holidays would only happen under extreme or emergency conditions.

Q5. Will I be able to drive on the block during construction?

Due to the utility work, 9th Avenue is expected to be closed to traffic for about a month.

For all other blocks, in general you should be able to drive on them during the project. However, there will be times when you will be discouraged or restricted from doing so. These restrictions are not often and typically occur during the day when construction crews are performing specific work, such as underground utilities or paving operations, that block safe passage of the street or when vehicle traffic could damage their work.

All driveways should be accessible and usable at the end of each day. The only exception may be for a few days after concrete is poured, to let the concrete cure and harden. Written notice would be provided for those situations.

Q6. Will my water or sewer be interrupted?

It will be necessary to interrupt the water service on 9th Avenue twice during the project. It will also be necessary to interrupt the sewer service for the block of 9th Avenue and part of the block of 13th Street once during the project.

Properties affected by water or sewer service interruptions will be notified in writing at least 48-hours in advance.

Service interruptions will generally be limited to 4 hours or less. Service will not be interrupted before 9:00 a.m.

Q7. What happens to my mail delivery during construction?

The contractor will work with the US Postal Service for coordination of mail delivery.

In general, mail service should not be affected by the work.

However, if it becomes unsafe for the mail carrier to deliver the mail, it may become necessary to set up temporary mailboxes for a period of time. The temporary mail boxes are usually placed on the next block over from where construction is occurring.

If temporary mailboxes are needed, a written notice will be delivered to affected properties before the mail delivery locations change.

Q8. What happens to garbage service during construction?

Residents should put their garbage out as usual during construction.

The contractor will coordinate with the garbage haulers. Efforts will be made to allow the haulers to collect along the alleys as usual. However, if there is a day when the alley is not accessible, the contractor would move the containers to the end of the alley so they could be collected, then the contractor would return the containers to each property.

Q9. Do I need to do anything before construction starts?

If you have any personal property, such as landscaping, plants, rocks, timbers, etc., within a few feet of the existing pavement or sidewalk, and you would like to save that property, you should remove it prior to the start of construction.

Anything still in place when the work occurs will be removed by the contractor and will be disposed.

Q10. What will happen to the trees?

Trees will be preserved as much as practical during construction. However, some trees will be affected by the work and will need to be removed. Factors such as long-term health of the trees, public safety, and impacts of the trees on the newly constructed utilities, sidewalks and streets will be considered when deciding whether a tree needs to be removed.

Q11. Who do I call during construction and where can I get construction updates?

The city will have a project representative on-site daily during construction, who would be the first call for questions. The contact information for that person is:

Garey Pankonin

Cell phone: 763-355-4380

You can also call City Hall at 218-834-5631 during regular business hours.

Project information will also be available through the City's website at: <http://www.twoharborsmn.gov/>

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911.